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FIRST LADY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 4, 1974

Location: State Dining Room



1 FIRST LADY: It's nice to see so many good friends
2 here. I am sure you all know that this is my first experience
3 at giving a press conference, but I feel I know you all so well
4 that I thought it would be a very comfortable way to do it,
5 and a way that we could all get together at one time and not
6 take up individual's time.

7 May I have the first question?

8 Helen?

9 QUESTION: Your son Jack says that you were very
10 disturbed when you heard that your husband would probably run
11 for the Presidency. Are you disturbed? How are you liking it?

12 FIRST LADY: No, I was very surprised at my son's
13 statement.

14 QUESTION: You want him to run again or how do you
15 feel about that?

16 FIRST LADY: Well, I feel at this point two years
17 is quite a long ways away and I wouldn't want to commit myself
18 one way or the other.

19 QUESTION: You sound doubtful.

20 FIRST LADY: No.

21 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, could I ask you how much
22 influence do you and family have on the President when he is
23 speaking about matters, for instance, the amnesty? Do the
24 boys tell him what they think he should do?

25 FIRST LADY: Oh, the whole family has a discussion



1 on many of these questions. Not only amnesty, but questions
2 such as the policy in Vietnam, and so forth. Perhaps, if you
3 recall, our son Michael had an entirely different feeling
4 about the Vietnam situation. So, we always enjoy a family
5 conference, always have, over the dinner table.

6 QUESTION: What was the division of the family when
7 the President discussed amnesty with the family this last time
8 before he made his speech?


9 FIRST LADY: Well, it was rather a deep discussion,
10 I would say. And points were made on all sides, and I think
11 that the President was open to consideration, and I think
12 perhaps he was leaning in that direction.

13 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, in that connection I am
14 wondering if you have not considered what women's role would
15 be in trying to stop future wars?

16 FIRST LADY: Well, they can always, I could say,
17 enlist and make sure. (Laughter.)

18 (Laughter.)

19 But I think that by becoming very active in politics,
20 which I deeply encourage, that they will play a great role in
21 the future of our country. My husband occasionally makes the
22 remark when I discuss equal rights, equal opportunity -- not
23 that he is for it -- and has made his position quite clear.
24 We kid about it and I often say, "Well, I can remember well
25 there was a time when we couldn't even vote."



1 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, in that connection, with Lady
2 Bird Johnson it was beautification, Mrs. Nixon chose volunteerism.
3 Have you decided on a specific area to direct your attention?

4 FIRST LADY: I think I more or less decided quite
5 specifically when Mr. Ford was Vice President, that my interests
6 lay in the field of arts and working perhaps with Nancy Hanks
7 in the Endowment of the Arts, because that is my background.
8 And also I am very interested in children, the underprivileged,
9 and retarded children.

10 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, since Time quotes you as saying
11 you expect to be a very active and public person, I have a
12 two-part question:

13 The first one is -- Senator Buckley has proposed
14 a Constitutional Amendment that will prohibit abortion for any
15 reason while Governor Rockefeller has strongly supported
16 abortion law liberalization. Are your own convictions on this
17 subject closer to Governor Rockefeller's or Senator Buckley?

18 FIRST LADY: Definitely closer to Governor Rockefeller.

19 QUESTION: Thank you.

20 The second question -- Will you accept National
21 Newspaper's Syndicate's offer to be the first First Lady
22 columnist since Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt?

23 FIRST LADY: Thank you very much, but, no.

24 (Laughter.)

25 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, in the light of a woman's role,



1 certainly in your role as a housewife in the past in dealing
2 with the price of children's shoes, and everything else has
3 become so expensive, since your children have discussed the
4 issues that concern them with your husband, will you discuss
5 inflation with him at all, and do you have any positive ideas
6 on how he can cope with it?

7 FIRST LADY: Well, I have positive ideas by having
8 to cut back on the budget, just as anyone else has with the
9 income smaller and because of the increased rate in prices. I
10 think we all have to tighten our belts a bit, and do without
11 a few things that we were used to doing with.

12 QUESTION: What do you mean by "tighten our belts?"

13 FIRST LADY: By that I mean cut down on our spending.
14 You have to have a certain balance of budget if you are a
15 housewife, and keep a checkbook. At least my checkbook has to
16 balance.

17 (Laughter.)

18 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, you have indicated that you
19 encourage women to be active in politics. Will you be active
20 politically beyond what you do for the arts. Do you see your-
21 self, perhaps, in going out and helping campaign for various
22 people running for Congress?

23 FIRST LADY: I will not take a political, active
24 part in politics, as far as issues are concerned. I have
25 campaigned before, and I have campaigned for my husband,



1 I have campaigned for the Governor, I have campaigned for the
2 President, so this is nothing new for me. I imagine I will
3 also be doing it again.

4 QUESTION: Did you take any part in pushing for for
5 the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in States that
6 haven't passed it yet since your husband is so strongly in
7 favor of it?

8 FIRST LADY: Yes, I would definitely be happy to
9 take a part in that.

10 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, will you campaign in 1976
11 and for whom?

12 FIRST LADY: That's a very leading question and I
13 will be happy to campaign in '76, and guess who?

14 (Laughter.)

15 QUESTION: Could I ask you since you did sign --
16 as the President called it, he signed his pledge in blood --
17 this has something to do with Helen Thomas' question and you
18 said you relieved him of that promise when he became the
19 "instant" President but what changed to make you relieve him of
20 that promise as far as '76 is concerned? Will you run
21 happily with him in '76?

22 FIRST LADY: It depends on the state of the country.

23 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford?

24 FIRST LADY: Yes?

25 QUESTION: In light of your comments about tightening

1 your belt, can you send any specific recommendation down to
2 the White House kitchen about ways to cut back?

3 FIRST LADY: You mean to my husband?

4 (Laughter.)

5 QUESTION: On ways to cut back in official enter-
6 taining or family meals?

7 FIRST LADY: Well, I think we all have gone through
8 that and I think that at least in our family we have certainly
9 had to make that adjustment, as everyone else has realized
10 with the situation a lack of funds as far as the rise in
11 prices and there is only one solution.

12 QUESTION: On the ways the food budget can be cut
13 back or have you had ---

14 FIRST LADY: Yes, we don't eat as much steak as
15 they would like to have or roast beef or some of those things
16 that the boys like.

17 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, this is probably early-on the
18 to say, but have you found life as the First Lady more or less
19 frustrating than the Second.

20 FIRST LADY: Well, I found it a very busy life but
21 I expected it to be very busy. And I really looked forward
22 to the challenge. I am very happy. Everyone has been so
23 generous and warm and tried to help me in all manner of ways
24 whether it was trying to get settled here in the Home or
25 trying to get settled as far as correspondence is concerned.



1 The whole thing has run very smoothly.

2 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, you said that you would like
3 to be active in the field of the arts and also help in under-
4 privileged and retarded children. Would you ^{be} a bit more
5 specific about the kinds of things you plan to do in these
6 three areas?

7 FIRST LADY: Well I have always been active in the
8 field of the arts since that is more or less my profession
9 as I started at the age of eight and that was in dancing
10 schools and continued on until long after I was married.
11 And I was always exposed, of course, to the symphonies at
12 home. And I feel that this is something that -- I would
13 like to see the arts brought back into the schools. I feel
14 that this ^{is} part of our cultural education and if we are to
15 remain a great nation we need this.

16 QUESTION: On children?

17 FIRST LADY: The retarded children question? Yes.
18 Well I am very interested in children, of course, all children.
19 But I am specifically interested in those that are under-
20 privileged and retarded.

21 QUESTION: Is it possible from the statement last
22 week where you said you were upset about the statement that you
23 were different from other public figures in Washington; what
24 do you think he meant by that?

25 FIRST LADY: I'm afraid you'd have to ask him.



1 I always thought I was quite normal.

2 (Laughter.)

3 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, as to the Bicentennial
4 coming during your tenure in the White House, do you have any
5 special thoughts about special things you would like to do
6 in that very special period?

7 FIRST LADY: I am working on that now and I have
8 now come to the conclusion -- I haven't had the time. We
9 really have been here a very short time. In fact, we are not
10 completely moved and I really would not ^{like} to specifically say
11 what particular project.

12 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, because the President was in
13 the Navy and he will be invited to visit the Navy, Marines or
14 Coast Guard, the widows of officers or those at home would
15 you plan to go and visit -- they are here in the Washington
16 area ---

17 FIRST LADY: Yes, I know they are. It's very familiar
18 with this. And I think it is a very fine, fine tradition.
19 I would hope that my schedule would allow me to go.

20 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, last Wednesday the President
21 said that you had given him your time for a press conference
22 and that now he would not only have to get breakfast but lunch
23 and dinner.

24 (Laughter.)

25 Has he been getting breakfast, lunch and dinner?



1 (Laughter.)

2 FIRST LADY: I am afraid he has become accustomed
3 to the very good service we have in the upstairs family dining
4 room and he finds it quite convenient. So, I can't promise
5 you that he is getting his own breakfast.

6 QUESTION: Do you have any plans to go around the
7 country and become acquainted or to know better the people
8 than perhaps the opportunity of their coming here? In
9 other words -- I put that very badly.

10 FIRST LADY: Oh, I would certainly hope to. I
11 hope to travel as much as I can with my husband.

12 QUESTION: Do you have any specific trips in mind?

13 FIRST LADY: None at the moment, no, but I
14 definitely hope to get around as much as possible.

15 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, could I ask what would be
16 your preference for a winter White House or a summer White
17 House? Would you want to go back to Vail or is that too
18 far away or ---

19 FIRST LADY: Vail, of course, naturally is our
20 home in the Christmas, New Year's period.

21 QUESTION: Is it possible to get back and forth
22 easily?

23 FIRST LADY: Yes, I think it is quite easy. My
24 husband has made trips back and forth during our trips out
25 there.



1 QUESTION: Turn it into a summer White House and
2 then stay for the winter? It will be a winter White House?

3 FIRST LADY: Winter and summer.

4 (Laughter.)

5 QUESTION: What part will Susan play?

6 FIRST LADY: Susan will be going to school and I
7 am sure she will be helping me a lot with the children because
8 she already has had the experience of working with those
9 underprivileged and retarded children.

10 QUESTION: (In Spanish.)

11 FIRST LADY: Would you repeat that, please?

12 QUESTION: What do your opinion, what do think of
13 the job of Mrs. Maria de la Peron, first woman president in
14 America? FIRST LADY: Well, none having been or


15 VOICES: Argentina.

16 FIRST LADY: Well, not having been or having the
17 privilege of visiting down there, I would not have the
18 possibility -- I couldn't possibly comment on that.

19 QUESTION: Have you had much chance to travel abroad
20 and do you look forward to visiting other countries?

21 FIRST LADY: I have traveled abroad quite a bit.
22 We have been in many countries. We have been in Europe. We
23 have been in Russia. We have been in China and many of the
24 Far Eastern countries.

25 QUESTION: Will you be going to Japan with your
husband?



1 FIRST LADY: I would certainly hope so.

2 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, your husband has talked with
3 former President Nixon since the Nixons left the White House.
4 Have you talked with Mrs. Nixon?


5 FIRST LADY: Unfortunately, I haven't had a chance
6 to talk with Pat. We have corresponded. And Julie -- I
7 just received a nice note from Julie just today.

8 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, what about the rooms in the
9 White House, or certain spots in the White House; what are
10 your favorites?

11 FIRST LADY: I think the White House is a really,
12 truly beautiful spot and it is very hard to pick out a favorite
13 room. I would say that perhaps the Blue Room is one of the
14 prettiest and that is one of the reasons we have used it for
15 entertaining.

16 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, whether you are here for two
17 years or six, what sort of a "footprint" would you like to
18 leave at the White House? How would you like to be remembered
19 or what?

20 FIRST LADY: Well, I would like to be remembered
21 in a very kind way; also as a constructive wife of a President.
22 I do not expect to come anywhere near living up to those First
23 Ladies who have gone before me. They have all done a great
24 job, and I admire them a great deal and it is only my ambition
25 to come close to them.



1 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, people look to you as an
2 extremely normal woman, the country looks at the family and looks
3 at the reports on how you say your husband is starting to enjoy
4 the service upstairs -- you are not in a normal situation here
5 with cameras, et cetera.

6 Do you have any strategy for maintaining that
7 normality over the next few years?

8 FIRST LADY: I see no reason why we cannot maintain
9 that normal family relationship just as we have. In fact, I
10 was completely dumbfounded the way the children adjusted. I
11 was afraid it would be more of an adjustment to them, than it
12 would be for Mr. Ford and for me. They were just perfectly
13 happy. We have had servants at home so it isn't as if we
14 were not used to having help.

15 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, regarding the performing
16 arts, you came out in the press yesterday saying you are greatly
17 in favor of expanding the performing arts in the schools
18 throughout the country. Can you elaborate on press that was
19 in the Post yesterday?

20 FIRST LADY: This is something that I think would
21 probably have to be a program that -- I don't know if it can
22 be funded federally or not. I will have to look into that
23 situation. It maybe a program that those children that are
24 interested in art -- it will be available to them. This is
25 something, a technicality that has to be.



1 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, can you tell us what Julie
2 was writing about to you today? You said you had just gotten
3 a note from her.

4 FIRST LADY: Well, we correspond regularly, my
5 husband, Julie, and we are all good friends.

6 QUESTION: Anything specific?

7 FIRST LADY: No, she was just thanking me for a
8 phone call that she missed, and I talked to David.

9 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, how frequently do you have
10 on having meetings like this with the press?

11 FIRST LADY: As often as I think that the press
12 has anything to ask of interest.

13 (Laughter.)

14 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, will you look into the question
15 of cancer research as soon as you can with the President to
16 see if we can't expedite that program?

17 FIRST LADY: I'll be glad to. Only too happy.

18 QUESTION: Are you keeping a diary or some sort of
19 record that might ---

20 FIRST LADY: Bonnie, I hoped you were keeping it
21 for me.

22 (Laughter.)

23 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, with your interest in the
24 dance, and you met the other day for several hours with Nancy
25 Hanks ---

1 FIRST LADY: That is true.

2 QUESTION: The National Ballet, is there any chance
3 of that coming back or is that down the drain?

4 FIRST LADY: Well, I would hope that the National
5 Ballet certainly would be able to come back. I think this is
6 a financial situation and I think that in order to have good
7 artists here, to have good ballet, we have to have the
8 finances and somehow that has to be arranged. We have to do
9 it without taking all the cream off the top, mixing up or
10 homogenizing the thing.

11 QUESTION: But do you see any future for it coming
12 back right now?

13 FIRST LADY: Yes, I do.

14 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, are you a swimmer and how
15 soon do you think there will be a swimming pool in the White
16 House?

17 FIRST LADY: Well, if it takes as long as it took
18 to build our swimming pool, it will be at least a year. I
19 hope there will be one sometime. And, yes, I am a swimmer.

20 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, who are your favorite
21 Presidents, former, late Presidents and First Ladies?

22 FIRST LADY: I am sorry, I decline to answer that
23 because I have no favorites and for many reasons. I think
24 each had their own individualistic characteristics, and I
25 really would not want to specify.

1 QUESTION: Why keep President _____
2 (inaudible) there when President Roosevelt's used to be there?

3 FIRST LADY: I suppose that is true.

4 (Laughter.)

5 QUESTION: Since you are the hostess, the location
6 of the swimming pool -- there is some speculation that the
7 swimming pool may go into the kennel, or maybe the press
8 will go into the kennel.

9 (Laughter.)

10 Where do you think the pool should go?

11 FIRST LADY: Well, I wouldn't want the press to
12 go into the kennel. That would be last thing in the world.

13 (Laughter.)

14 And I wouldn't want the kennel, either, to go. I
15 think perhaps if there is such a thing as a swimming pool,
16 and I say "if", they can find a spot that won't disturb the
17 press or the dogs.

18 (Laughter.)

19 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, when President Ford told
20 Nelson Rockefeller that he wanted him for Vice President --
21 does this mean that you are often brought in on major decisions
22 and were you consulted and were there any other such decisions
23 where you played a part?

24 FIRST LADY: I wasn't consulted the moment of the
25 telephone call, and certainly knew nothing about the fact of

1 the Vice Presidency. That came as a ---

2 QUESTION: Mrs. Ford, many First Ladies in the
3 past have restricted themselves to American designers. I know
4 that you have an extensive wardrobe. Will you include the
5 European designers or will you stick strictly to the American
6 designers?

7 FIRST LADY: I am/sure I will be with American
8 designers.

9 QUESTION: American designers.

10 Mrs. Ford, may I ask if you will get another Sugar?

11 FIRST LADY: The Golden Retriever?

12 QUESTION: You have had two Golden Retrievers.

13 FIRST LADY: Yes, we have had two Golden Retrievers.

14 QUESTION: Do you think you might get another one?

15 FIRST LADY: I would doubt it at the moment. I
16 have my hands full right now without ---

17 Thank you.

18 FIRST LADY: Thank you, so much.

19 - - -



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

This is the list of the press people covering Mrs. Ford's press conference tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. They will be coming through the N. W. Gate.

Bonnie Angelo- Time
Ymelda Dixon- Star
Donnie Radcliffe-Post (?)
Garnett Stackelberg- West Palm Beach
Vera Glaser- Knight Newspapers
Marlene Cimon- LA. Times
Pat Gates- V. O. A.
Ginny Sherwood- ABC News (she's bringing Beverly Rogers with her) also with ABC)
Kandy Stroud- W. W. D.
Cliff Evans

The above are press who cover here frequently and most of them all have W. H. Press passes. The list below may not have W. H. Press passes and will need to be cleared at N. W. Gate. Thank you so much.

Jane Perlez- New York Post
Jacques Tiziou- Sygma News Agency
Mary Lawrence- Globe Publications-Montreal
Col. Elizabeth Darden- Enterprise Newspapers in Baltimore
Sandra McElwain- Vogue
Janet Green- Antique Monthly
Meryl Comer- Metromedia Channel 5
Linda Krivikas
Marguerite Sullivan- Copley Newspapers
Mary Hoyt- Free lance
Lillian Levy- Family Health (Nat'l. Jewish Press)
Owen Franken- Gamma Agency
Ennio Caretto - "La Stampa" (USIA request)
Miss Ruiko Yoshida - a photographer from USIA
Annie Groer- The Orlando Sentinel
Margot Tupper Pryor- Parade
Paul Riupor- Latin News Agency
Forrest Boyd- Mutual Broadcasting
Susan Stanburg- Nat'l. Public Radio
Dick Howill- " " "
Carol Kadushia- Capital News Service and Canadian Broadcasting Co.
Winifred McCarthy- The Irish Advocate
Hudson Marquez
Michael Couzens- WNET TV w/ ~~Allen Ruzick~~, Michael Shamberg and Elon Soltas
Diane White- Boston Globe
Tom Brazaitis- Cleveland Plain Dealer
Ann Dear--Readers Digest

Stephanie Mansfield-
London Daily Mail
Ross Mark- London Daily
Express
Henry Lowrie- London Daily
Mirror
Elizabeth Cowles-Christian Beacon
Press
Clara Watkins-Globe Newspapers
(photographer)
Kay Elliott- Wash. Star
Sam Braun- German TV-Z. D. F.
(passport # C7135070)
Frank Kane- Toledo Blade

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SYNDICATE

1517 BEULAH ROAD
VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180

(703) 281-2808

REV. LESTER KINSOLVING
RELIGION COLUMNIST
AND
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

MRS. JOHN PRISLEY
ASSOCIATE

September 5, 1974

Dear Helen:

My deepest appreciation for your signal kindness in arranging for me to present Mrs. Ford with that gift subscription.

~~This~~ The enclosed was broadcast this morning over WAVA Radio. I thought the First Lady might like to have it -- and to know that I think she has magnificent assistants!

Again, my deep appreciation to you and Terry,

Mrs. Helen Smith

Press Secretary To Mrs. Ford

The White House

Washington


Lester Kinsolving



Good morning -- Les Kinsolving -- WAVA Commentary

Headline: MRS. FORD'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE -- BEAUTIFUL.

The State Dining Room of the White House glistened in the glare of TV lights. The press -- some 150 of us -- were led in as if it were the lion runway into the Coliseum.

Under the giant portrait of Abraham Lincoln was a small desk with a bouquet of flowers.

Twenty minutes later, right on time, everyone stood up as she walked in -- with a smile that could melt case-hardened steel (or, for that ~~matter~~ ^{the heart of} future Minority Leaders ~~from~~ Michigan.)

Betty Ford was facing what her husband's predecessor considered the "Bear Pit" -- those ladies and gentlemen whom Messers Nixon and Zeigler considered to be a corps of pseudo-literary assassins: The White House Press Corps.

Well, beauty certainly soothed -- in fact won the hearts of -- the assembled and alleged beasts of the Fourth Estate.

Mrs. Ford did it by being thoroughly honest, absolutely courteous, completely gracious -- and frequently ingenious.

She opened by explaining that this was her first press conference. But this was done naturally, without the indignity of advance apologies. So we were with her right from the outset.

The questions, like the primary composition of the assembled reporters were for the most part feminine. But the First Lady was neither overwhelmed nor in any way evasive when the tough questions came.

How did she react to her son's statement that she was "disturbed" by The President's ~~statement~~ indication that he will run in 1976?

"I was surprised at my son's statement," she laughed.

Do ~~she~~ she and the boys often tell the President what they think he should do?

"The whole family enjoys discussing issues," she purred.

MORE



MRS. FORD'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE / 1st add

How can ~~men~~^{women} help bring an end to war? -- this question from The Holy Terror of The White House, Sarah McClendon, who has enraged at least six Presidents, in addition to reforming the Veterans Administration, among other things.

"Well, they can always enlist," she laughed, and then added, seriously;

"They can also become active in politics."

This led to the next question: Will she be active?

Not on particular issues, she replied. And when asked if she will campaign in 1976 -- and for who, she arched her eyebrows and smiled:

"I'll be happy to campaign in 1976 -- and for guess who!"

Are her own convictions closer to Sen. Buckley (Cons.-N.Y.) who wants to prohibit abortions -- or to Governor Rockefeller, who has strongly supported abortion law liberalization?

"Definitely towards Governor Rockefeller," she replied.

No evasion. No resentment. No lies. Just truth and conviction -- on one of the most controversial of all current issues.

Behind her, under the Lincoln portrait, was a marble tablet, with the wording of a letter written to President John Adams, the first Chief Executive to live here:

"I pray that heaven will bestow its best blessings on this house."

And one of the best ^{blessings} along this line, appears to be Mrs. Gerald R. Ford.

~~THIS~~ This is Les Kinsolving -- WAVA Commentary -- on The White House

1st pc

In first press conference

**Mrs. Ford reaffirms
her stand for abortion**

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In her first full-scale press conference since her husband became President, Betty Ford yesterday followed his lead in a candid briefing that included a proabortion stand

under certain circumstances — for unwed teen-agers — Mrs. Ford said she was “definitely closer” to Rockefeller, who as New York’s governor in 1972 vetoed a bill that would have repealed that state’s liberal abortion law.

She recently told an interviewer that despite reaction to her proabortion statement in 1973, “I couldn’t lie. That’s the way I feel.”

YESTERDAY Mrs. Ford took issue with a recent remark

BY WAUHILLAU LA HAY
SCRIPPS-HOWARD STAFF WRITER

9-5-74

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 5--FIRST LADY BETTY FORD LEANS TOWARD LEGALIZED ABORTION, SUPPORTS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT FOR WOMEN AND IS HAPPILY RECONCILED TO HER HUSBAND'S PROBABLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY IN 1976.

IN HER FIRST WHITE HOUSE PRESS CONFERENCE, MRS. FORD ALSO TOLD 120 NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS CROWDED INTO THE STATE DINING ROOM YESTERDAY THAT SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF CONSIDERING OFFERS TO BE A NATIONALLY SYNDICATED NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST.

ASKED TO REMARK ON HER SON JACK'S STATEMENT THAT SHE HAD BEEN "DISTURBED" WHEN SHE FOUND HER HUSBAND MIGHT RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1976, THE FIRST LADY LAUGHED AND SAID SHE WAS "SURPRISED" BY THE 22-YEAR-OLD'S COMMENT.

"I FEEL AT THIS POINT THAT TWO YEARS IS A LONG TIME AWAY AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO COMMENT," SHE EXPLAINED.

BUT WHEN ASKED IF SHE WOULD CAMPAIGN AND FOR WHOM, SHE QUICKLY REPLIED: "I WOULD BE HAPPY TO CAMPAIGN IN 1976 AND FOR GUESS WHO?"

ON THE ABORTION ISSUE, THE FIRST LADY SAID SHE WAS CLOSER TO THE VIEW OF VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER, WHO FAVORS LEGALIZED ABORTIONS, THAN SHE WAS TO NEW YORK SEN. JAMES L. BUCKLEY, THE CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN WHO IS SPONSORING MAJOR ANTIABORTION LEGISLATION.

SHE SAID THE WHOLE FORD FAMILY DISCUSSES MAJOR ISSUES WITH THE PRESIDENT. BEFORE HE MADE HIS "AMNESTY SPEECH" TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS IN CHICAGO, THE ISSUE HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP IN A FAMILY GATHERING.

"WE DISCUSSED THAT AND OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS OUR POLICY IN VIETNAM," SHE SAID. "AS YOU KNOW, OUR SON MIKE HAD DIFFERENT FEELINGS ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM THAN HIS FATHER. WE HAVE DEEP DISCUSSIONS AND POINTS ARE MADE ON ALL SIDES. ON THE AMNESTY SITUATION, WE ALL LEAN IN THE SAME DIRECTION."

(MORE)

ASKED HOW WOMEN COULD STOP FUTURE WARS, THE FIRST LADY JOKED: "THE BEST WAY IS TO ENLIST."

THEN, SHE EARNESTLY CALLED ON WOMEN TO "BECOME VERY ACTIVE IN POLITICS."

"I DEEPLY ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY. AS YOU KNOW, MY HUSBAND IS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY."

THE LAST THREE FIRST LADIES HAVE EACH HAD THEIR OWN PROJECTS, AND MRS. FORD WAS ASKED WHAT SHE WOULD STRESS.

"I THINK MY AREA, MY SPECIFIC AREA, WAS MORE OR LESS DECIDED WHEN MY HUSBAND BECAME VICE PRESIDENT," SHE SAID. "I WILL INTEREST MYSELF IN THE ARTS, IN THE ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS AND IN UNDER-PRIVILEGED AND RETARDED CHILDREN."

ON THE INFLATED PRICE OF FOOD, SHE SAID SHE HAS POSITIVE IDEAS ON BUDGET CUTTING AND BELT TIGHTENING. "WE CAN ALL DO WITHOUT A FEW THINGS," SHE SAID. "OUR FAMILY HAS MADE THE ADJUSTMENT. WE DON'T HAVE AS MUCH STEAK AND ROAST BEEF AS THE BOYS WOULD LIKE."

THE FIRST LADY, WHILE ADMITTING SHE HASN'T QUITE FINISHED UNPACKING HER PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, SAYS SHE IS AT HOME IN THE WHITE HOUSE--"A TRULY BEAUTIFUL SPOT"--HAS FOUND HERSELF VERY BUSY, AND EVERYBODY HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN GETTING THE FAMILY SETTLED.

"I WAS DUMBFOUNDED AT HOW QUICKLY OUR CHILDREN TOOK TO LIVING HERE," SHE TOLD REPORTERS. "THEY SETTLED RIGHT IN."

THEIR CONDOMINIUM IN THE SKI RESORT OF VAIL, COLO., WILL BE BOTH THE "SUMMER AND WINTER VACATION WHITE HOUSE," SHE SAID. "THAT'S OUR HOME AND WE LOVE IT."

AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, PRESIDENT FORD JOKED THAT HIS WIFE HAD STOPPED COOKING FOR HIM BECAUSE HE HAD FORCED HER TO CANCEL A MEETING WITH THE PRESS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME AFTERNOON AS HIS.

"HE'S BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THAT GOOD SERVICE WE GET IN OUR UPSTAIRS FAMILY DINING ROOM," SHE SAID. "DON'T WORRY. HE'S NOT DOING HIS OWN COOKING."

MRS. FORD SAID SHE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A WHITE HOUSE SWIMMING POOL, BUT ADDED: "IF, AND ONLY IF, THEY CAN FIND A SPOT FOR IT THAT WON'T DISTURB THE PRESS OR--THE DOGS."

THE WHITE HOUSE SWIMMING POOL INSTALLED DURING THE ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION WAS TURNED INTO A PRESS ROOM BY PRESIDENT NIXON. RECENT PLANS FOR A NEW POOL INCLUDE USING THE SITE OF THE WHITE HOUSE DOG KENNELS.

"HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED AS FIRST LADY?" A REPORTER ASKED.

"I'D LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED IN A KINDLY WAY," SHE SAID AFTER A SMILE AND A PAUSE FOR REFLECTION. "AND ALSO AS A CONSTRUCTIVE WIFE OF A PRESIDENT. THE FIRST LADY BEFORE ME DID A GREAT JOB. MY AMBITION IS TO COME CLOSE TO HER RECORD."

Choro

The Weather

Today—Mostly sunny, high in the mid 70s, low in the 50s. The chance of rain is near zero today and tonight. **Friday**—Partly cloudy, high in the 70s. Yesterday's temperature range, 75-61. Details are on Page D2.

The W

97th Year No. 274

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By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

Betty Ford speaking during her press conference in the White House.

Pro-Abortion Stand Taken By Mrs. Ford

By Donnie Radcliffe

Washington Post Staff Writer

In her first full-scale press

conference since her husband



Miami Herald 7/6/74 p.11-A

chron

Their Beef --Betty Made A Mistake

Chicago Tribune Service

A remark by Mrs. Betty Ford that the President's family is eating less beef these days brought expressions of disappointment and displeasure from the cattle industry Thursday.

Mrs. Ford said Wednesday that her family



MRS. FORD

In Cases of Rape, Incest or Illness

Ford, Wife Agree That Abortion Must Be Available as Therapy

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — President and Mrs. Ford were on record Thursday that abortion must be available as a therapeutic remedy in cases where pregnancy results from rape or incest, or where the mother is seriously ill.

ruling that a state cannot regulate abortions during the first six months of pregnancy.

MRS. FORD'S answer caused some stir in anti-abor-

bf-chrono-1st pc

Photo by Guy de Lort



Betty Ford, attending her husband's address to Congress.

BETTY MEETS THE PRESS: "Couldn't you see me shaking?" asked Betty Ford at the conclusion of her first press conference as First Lady in Washington Wednesday. If she was shaking, it wasn't evident. Ms. Ford handled the press like a pro, answering most questions with good humor and leaving a highly favorable impression. "She reminds me so much of Lady Bird, I could faint," said one reporter. "She has exactly the same smile. It must be patented."

Ms. Ford who changed one part of her act by arriving on time, wore a gold off-the-rack short dress and claimed she and her family "have had to make an adjustment" in the food budget: "At least in our family, we don't eat as much steak or roast beef — as much as the boys would like."

She also agreed with vice-president-designate Nelson Rockefeller's stand on liber-

EYE

OLYMPIAN: Topping-out festivities for the Olympic Tower complex, a \$95,000,000, 52-story structure on New York's Fifth Ave., are slated for today. There will be two floors of retail space, 19 floors of office space and 230 luxury condominiums. There will also be a block-long enclosed park, Olympic Place, with its own three-level waterfall, a patio restaurant, galleries and specialty shops, one of which will reportedly be Roberta di Camerino, the Venice merchant noted for leather goods and, most recently, ready-to-wear. Di Camerino also has outlets in Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman-Marcus. A spokesman for Arlen Realty & Development Corp., a cosponsor of the complex, declined to comment on the report.

HANDS ACROSS THE PLAZA: The New York City Ballet's George Balanchine is returning to the Metropolitan Opera to choreograph the Polonaise for the company's new production of "Boris Godunov." It's his first assignment with the Met since he staged the American premiere of Stravinsky's "The Rake's Progress" in 1953.

RUFFIN, THERE: Clovis Ruffin has contracted for four collections a year for Boutique Loungewear, Inc. in New York. He's committed for two 40-piece collections for fall and spring, plus two 20-piece collections for early spring and holiday. Ruffin's first effort will be shown in mid-November, expected to retail from \$20 to \$50. "We do not want to go over \$45 on long robes," said Kenneth Polsky, president of the new Ruffin division. Polsky is also president of Eye-Ful, another Boutique division. Ruffin's contract with Keyloun, another loungewear firm, expires Nov. 1, the same date his pact with Boutique begins. Stan Filonovich, who managed the Ruffin collection at Keyloun, will be sales manager for Ruffin at Boutique.



Photos by Peter Zachary Simins

The big-jacketed evening costume; the red and white striped chemise; the red and white striped suit; the elasticized shirtdress; the ombre-striped

BLASS RESORT: The sweater, bright red ribbed wool vest, They're the suits Blass wore sweater trimmed in zigzag, dine skirt. The sweater suits collection does.

The rest of Blass' season stripes — Blass' big pattern newsier and more elegant evening shirtdress that Blass when Blass gives it a wide did one, in brown and white although, after the show, he

Blass resort show in New York Wednesday. The well as first off the runway in the presentation. Another winner: the navy tweed match the ruffled-collared blouse with an ecru gabardine from resort through spring, as much of the Blass chemise — long or short and prettiest when striped; colored in an ombre effect. The stripes are much as it is classic Blass; the shirtdress — updated and; the big-jacketed evening costume — Blass only and it was a knockout. It's too bad he didn't do more, the idea for spring.

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SEP 05 1974

Pro-Abortion Stand Taken By Mrs. Ford

By Donnie Radcliffe

Washington Post Staff Writer

In her first full-scale press conference since her husband became President, Betty Ford

First Lady pushes ERA as she meets the press

By Wauhillau la Hay
Scripps-Howard Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON— First Lady Betty Ford leans toward legalized abortion, supports the Equal Rights Amendment for women and is happily receiv-

who is sponsoring major anti-abortion legislation.

Mrs. Ford's chief spokesman said today Betty Ford believes in therapeutic abortion in cases of rape and in-

will interest myself in the arts, in the endowment of the arts and in under-privileged and retarded children."

The First Lady, while admitting she hasn't quite finished unpacking her personal papers

—UPI Telephoto



Betty Ford supports ERA and legalized abortions

Center

BY WAUHILLAU LA HAY
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON: First Lady Betty Ford leans toward legalized abortion, supports the Equal Rights Amendment for women, and is happily

husband is for equal rights and equal opportunity."

MRS. FORD said the whole Ford family discusses major issues with the President. Before he made his "amnesty speech" to the

was asked what she would stress.

"I think my area, my specific area, was more or less decided when my husband became vice president,"



Press Conf

16

Nessen on Today w/ film report of GFs at JFK noting it was their 1st outside social function, GF (on film) said he's "converted individual and doesn't apologize -- converts often known as ardent advocates." GF, when asked if he liked it, said it "suited his mood." The pie-throwing scene, asked a reporter? No, the dancing girls, replied GF.

Larry O'Brien gives GF "good marks for opening up govt," but honeymoons are of "short duration. He's going to have to be more aggressive. Summit confs won't do it."

MRS. FORD

NY News tops p. 4 w/ photo: "BF Meets Press, Finds it Pleasant." Ann Wood said BF had "audience happily coaching her a bit." ... "Pro-Abortion Stand" was p. 1 Post. ... "Tells Parley She's Busy and Happy" tops inside NYT page. ... Post and NYT all w/ p. 1 photos of BF at news conf.

BF believes in theraputic abortion in cases of rape and incest, but opposes abortion on demand, said Helen Smith. JtH said BF's reply on abortion "was not a very definitive answer." He said views of GF and BF "aren't that far apart." He said GF shares BF's belief that abortion must be available in cases where mom is seriously ill or has been attacked. GF favors state control of abortion and efforts to obtain amendment overturning Court's pro-abortion decision.

Now commended "Ms." BF for her strong endorsement of equal rights. Group meets w/ GF Fri.

Helen Thomas says Nancy Howe's "so close" to BF she's literally moved into WH for at least part of the time, w/ 3rd floor bedroom.



C-8

The Albuquerque Tribune, Thursday, September 5, 1974

Mrs. Ford leans toward

By WAUHILLAU LA HAY

Scripps-Howard Writer

WASHINGTON — First Lady Betty Ford leans toward legalized abortion, supports the equal rights amendment for women and is happily reconciled to her husband's... in 1976.

SHE CALLED on women to "become very active in politics.

"I deeply encourage women to play a greater role in the future of our country. As

cific area, was more or less and decided when my husband wor became vice president," she I said. "I will interest myself mil in the arts, in the endow- ish ment of the arts and in al

Mrs. Ford leans toward legalized abortion

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WASHINGTON — First Lady Betty Ford leans toward legalized abortion, supports the equal rights amend-

SHE CALLED on women to "become very active in politics.

"I deeply encourage wom-

en in the specific area, was more or less decided when my husband became vice president," she said. "I will interest myself in the arts, in the endow-

ment and roast beef as the boys would like."

The First Lady, while admitting she hasn't quite finished unpacking her person-

al belongings, "is right in."

THEIR CONDOMINIUM in the ski resort of Vail, Colo., will be both the "summer and winter vacation

home," she said. "He's become accustomed to that good service we get in our upstairs family dining room," she said. "Don't worry. He's not doing his own

work." by President Nixon. Recent plans for a new pool include using the site of the White House dog kennels.

"How would you like to be

An articulate First Lady meets the press

Grace, answers, and a smile

By Louise Sweeney
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

SEP 06 1974

Washington

U.S. First Lady Betty Ford, wearing a gold gabardine dress and an unflagging smile, held her first official news conference at the White House this week in a style indicating that she is adjusting quickly to the new role.



SEP 05 1974

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TH

Mrs. Ford Tells News Parley She's Busy and Happy

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—"I have found it is a very busy life," Betty Ford said. "I'm very happy. Everyone has been so nervous and worried"

the conference with a statement that she wanted to answer all the questions that had been piling up about her views on life and what role she would be playing in her husband's Administration.

son A. Rockefeller, who favored legalized abortion when he was Governor of New York. "Definitely Rockefeller," she replied. Mrs. Ford was not flustered by questions that are invariably asked of First Ladies

Asked to describe her family's dinner table conversations about granting amnesty to Vietnam draft evaders and deserters—the President has come out for conditional amnesty—she said, "We had a rather

WASHINGTON POST

Saturday, August 24, 1974

B 3

Mrs. Ford:

A Plan

To Meet

The Press

STAFF, From B1

staff will include Nancy Howe, previously named a personal assistant; her secretary, Carolyn Porembka;

A First

Lady's

Plan

AUG 24 1974

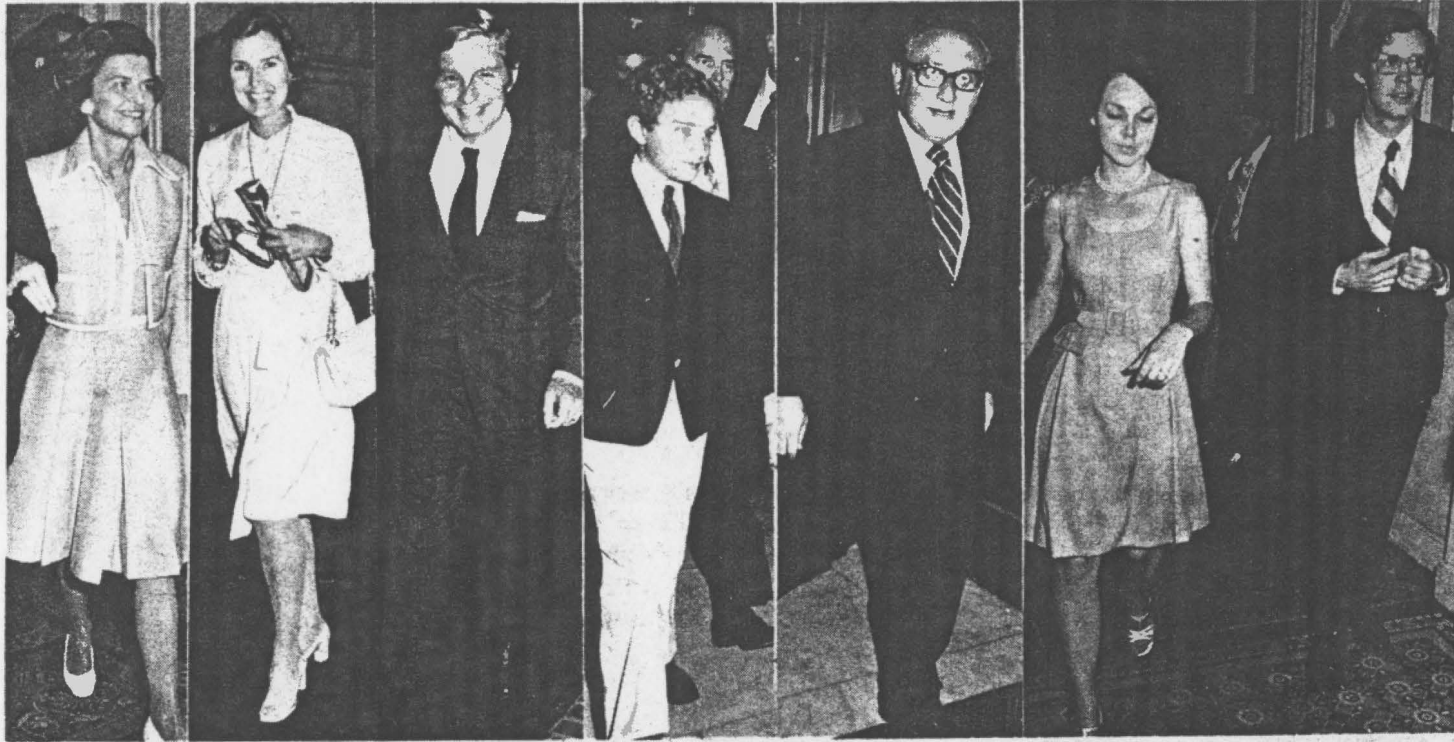
To Meet

The Press

By Donnie Radcliffe

Betty Ford plans to hold news conferences on a regular basis, perhaps monthly,

EYE



Betty Ford; Lorraine and Chuck Percy; David and Henry Kissinger; Julie and David Eisenhower



George Bush; David, Nancy and Elizabeth Kissinger; Swan and Steve Ford; David Eisenhower shaking hands with Jack Ford; Melvin Laird making a time check

Photos by Guy DeLort